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TAGS: WSB, BQG, GC, GE

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF BERLIN PRESS

THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARY PREPARED EACH DAY BY U.S. MISSION BERLIN. IT INCLUDES REPORTS FROM NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN WEST BERLIN AND FROM THE MAJOR EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS. MISSION BERLIN TRANSMITS THIS SUMMARY FOR THE SPECIAL USE OF EMBASSY BONN AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES WHO ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN ON A DAILY BASIS. IT IS NOT PART OF THE DAILY MEDIA REPORT SERIES WHICH IS PRODUCED BY EMBASSY BONN FOR ALL OF WEST GERMANY, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN.

REVIEW - WEST PRESS

WEST BERLIN DAILIES TODAY LEAD WITH REPORTS THAT BONN HAS NOT MADE A DECISION ON ITS APPROACH TO SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV'S DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, VOLKSBLAFT BERLIN, DIE WELT); THE BRITISH UNCLASSIFIED

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PARLIAMENT'S CONDEMNATION OF THE BERLIN WALL (BERLINER MORGENPOST); AND INDICATIONS THAT BERLIN WILL NO LONGER

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BE ABLE TO LIVE UP TO ITS PR PROMISES THAT NIGHT BARS
REMAIN OPEN ALL NIGHT (BZ).

OTHER PROMINENT NEWS INCLUDES THE FACT THAT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, IS PERSONA NON GRATA IN THE U.S. (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, VOLKSBLATT BERLIN, BILDZEITUNG); INDICATIONS BY INDIA THAT IT MIGHT PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JACQUES DELORS' DEMAND THAT THE EC COUNTRIES TAKE ACTION ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S BUDGET PROBLEMS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, VOLKSBLATT BERLIN); A POSSIBLE STRIKE BY WEST GERMAN BANK EMPLOYEES (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, BERLINER MORGENPOST); THE STRIKE BY SPANISH AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND ITALIAN RAILROAD WORKERS (BERLINER MORGENPOST); AND A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE BONN ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE RESEARCH SINCE 1983 (VOLKSBLATT BERLIN).

MORE NEWS IN BRIEF:

A BRITISH PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION HANDED OVER TO GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN YESTERDAY TO MARK THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERLIN CONDEMS THE WALL AND EXPRESSES ADMIRATION FOR THE BERLINERS' COURAGE AND STEADFASTNESS IN TURNING IN SPITE OF ALL ADVERSITIES THE CITY INTO A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM (BERLINER MORGENPOST ET AL).

THE 500-YARD SEGMENT OF "STRASSE DES 17. JUNI" BETWEEN ENTLASTUNGSSTRASSE AND BRANDENBURG GATE WAS REOPENED TO THE PUBLIC YESTERDAY. SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, THE STREET WAS CORDONED OFF BECAUSE A RIGHTIST EXTREMIST UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD FIRED SHOTS AT ONE OF THE SOVIET GUARDS AT THE SOVIET MEMORIAL THERE (MOST PAPERS).

BERLIN SPD MEDIA EXPERT NORBERT MEISNER STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE FACT THAT RIAS PROGRAM DIRECTOR THOMAS BERND STEHLING (36) HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO NDR RADIO/TV IN LOWER SAXONY. MEISNER SAID: "RIAS RADIO IS OBVIOUSLY BEING DEGRADED TO A 'FLOW HEATER' FOR CAREERS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POLITICALLY PROGRAMMED AT THE CDU KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION... IT REVEALS DISREGARD FOR THE TASKS IN BERLIN WHEN A YOUNG CAREERIST DURING HIS

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TEST PERIOD RISES FROM CDU PARTY WORK TO A BETTER-PAID JOB IN HANNOVER" (VOLKSBLATT BERLIN).

NEGOTIATIONS ON A PARTICIPATION OF PAN AM IN OPERATIONS OF TEMPELHOF AIRWAYS HAVE FAILED. A PAN AM SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN SOME AREAS NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL).

THE SENAT REMAINS IN FAVOR OF PAYING SUBSIDIES FOR AIRLINE TICKETS ON FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND BERLIN. LAST YEAR, DM 100.3 MILLION WERE SPENT FOR SUCH TICKETS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL).

GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN WILL MAKE A STATEMENT TOMORROW IN PARLIAMENT ON THE CITY'S 750TH ANNIVERSARY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE FLOOR LEADERS OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WILL DISCUSS THE ANNIVERSARY. LATERON, BUNDESTAG CHAIRMAN PHILIP JENNINGER WILL ADDRESS THE PARLIAMENT. THE SECRET ABOUT HIS ANNIVERSARY PRESENT TO THE CITY HAS

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BEEN LIFTED: HE WILL GIVE DIEPGEN AND PARLIAMENT CHAIRMAN PETER REBSCH THE FIRST TWO COPIES OF A SERIES OF PICTURE REPRODUCTIONS OF THE REICHSTAG (BERLINER MORGENPOST ET AL).

. THE CHAIRMEN AND CAUCUS LEADERS OF ALL WEST GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS WILL BE VISITING BERLIN FROM APRIL 29 TO MAY 2 IN CONNECTION WITH THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY (BERLINER MORGENPOST, BZ).

. GDR ENVIRONMENTAL, PEACE AND WOMEN'S GROUPS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A "GRASS ROOTS" CHURCH CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE EVANGELICAL CONVENTION IN EAST BERLIN FROM JUNE 24 TO 28 (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, DIE WELT).

. THE FEDERAL RESEARCH MINISTRY YESTERDAY REJECTED
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REPORTS THAT THE GDR WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE NEW FRG-GDR AGREEMENT ON TECHNO-SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

. POPE JOHN PAUL CANNOT VISIT BERLIN BECAUSE THE GDR IS OPPOSED TO HIS PLANS TO VISIT EAST GERMAN DIOCESES (BZ).

. FORMER AL PARLIAMENTARIAN DIETER KUNZELMANN AND EDITORS OF TAZ (DIE TAGESZEITUNG) WILL BE PUT ON TRIAL. THEY ARE ACCUSED OF HAVING SLANDERED THE SENAT. KUNZELMANN ALLEGEDLY REFERRED TO THE SENAT AS A "CRIMINAL UNION" (KRIMINELLE VEREINIGUNG) A TERM OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE TERRORISTS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL).

. A NEW 2.9-KILOMETER SECTION OF BERLIN'S U-BAHN SUBWAY WAS YESTERDAY INAUGURATED IN THE NORTH OF WEST BERLIN. THE NEW LINK WILL CONNECT OSLOER STRASSE AND THE PARACELSUS SWIMMING POOLS (MOST PAPERS).

. BONN'S PUBLIC PROSECUTOR HAS INITIATED LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE CHIEF OF THE BERLIN-BASED FRG HEALTH MINISTRY, DR. MANFRED STEINBACH, BECAUSE HE ALLEGEDLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFECTION OF 6,000 HAEMOPHILIACS (BLEEDERS) WITH THE AIDS VIRUS. THE BLEEDERS ALLEGEDLY

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WERE TREATED WITH BLOOD THAT HAD NOT BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, BZ).

REVIEW - EAST PRESS

EAST BERLIN DAILIES HIGHLIGHT THE SOVIET UNION'S SUBMISSION IN GENEVA OF A DRAFT U.S.-USSR AGREEMENT ON THE ELIMINATION OF INF'S IN EUROPE AND OTHER MEASURES ON INF REDUCTIONS (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, BERLINER ZEITUNG);
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THE BEGINNING IN ROSTOCK TODAY OF THE 12TH CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC FARMERS' PARTY (DBD - DEMOKRATISCHE BAUERNPARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS), WITH GREETINGS FROM THE SED AND OTHER GDR POLITICAL PARTIES (ALL PAPERS); PREPARATIONS FOR THE 13TH NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS (NATIONAL ZEITUNG); AND EAST GERMAN CDU CHAIRMAN GERALD GOETTING'S RECEPTION OF A DELEGATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S PARTY (CSL) HEADED BY KAREL HRUNEK, DIRECTOR OF THE CSL'S ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES (NEUE ZEIT).

OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES COVER GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WOLFGANG MEYER'S CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST RECENT ATTACK ON ZAMBIA AS AN INSIDIOUS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, WHICH SHOWS THE APARTHEID REGIME'S DEEP CRISIS (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND MOST OTHERS); THE BEGINNING IN MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, OF AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) CONFERENCE WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES AND CALLS ON THE U.S. TO STOP ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY VIS-A-VIS NICARAGUA (NATIONAL ZEITUNG, NEUE ZEIT ET AL); CONFIRMATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES THAT THE CIA ORGANIZES THE TRANSPORTATION OF ARMS AND DRUGS FOR THE CONTRAS (BERLINER ZEITUNG); YESTERDAY'S ARRIVAL IN BERLIN OF ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BERHANU BAYIH (MOST PAPERS); AND THE COMPLETION OF AN AFFORESTATION PROGRAM IN BERLIN'S NORTH (BERLINER ZEITUNG).

NEWS BRIEFS:

ACCORDING TO A PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED IN FRG

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MAGAZINE "SPIEGEL," 92 OF THE FRG CITIZENS ENDORSE A ZERO OPTION ON INF'S (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, , BERLINER ZEITUNG, NEUE ZEIT).

. THE DRIVER OF AN FRG AUTOMOBILE WAS KILLED IN A COLLISION WITH AN FRG TRUCK AT A HIGHWAY INTERSECTION IN SELMSDORF, IN THE GDR DISTRICT OF GREVESMUEHLEN (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, NEUE ZEIT).

.. THE GDR AND GREAT BRITAIN CONCLUDED IN BERLIN ON MONDAY AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF WAR

GRAVES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS FROM WORLD WARS I AND II ON GDR TERRITORY. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY HANSJOCHEN VOGL, CHIEF OF THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION, AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR TIMOTHY JOHN EVERAD (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND MOST OTHERS).
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SOVIET AMBASSADOR VYACHESLAV KOCHEMASOV DECORATED IN BERLIN ON MONDAY 150 GERMAN ANTI-FASCIST WAR VETERANS WITH THE MEDAL "40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR 1941-1945" (ALL PAPERS).

TO MARK THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APRIL REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN, AFGHAN AMBASSADOR ABDUL WAHED BABA JAN GAVE COCKTAILS IN BERLIN ON MONDAY. THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED AMONG OTHERS, BY SED POLITBURO CANDIDATE INGE LANGE AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KURT NIER (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND MOST OTHERS).

IN ETHIOPIA, THE SED DELEGATION LED BY POLITBURO MEMBER HORST DOHLUS ON MONDAY VISITED THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RESETTLEMENT AREA IN THE PROVINCE OF GOJJAM, WHERE 74,000 PEOPLE FOUND A NEW HOME IN 41 VILLAGES ON THE BELES RIVER (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, BERLINER ZEITUNG).

COMMENTARY - WEST PRESS

THE FRG AND GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS

THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST IN A PAGE-TWO COMMENTARY SAYS: "GIVEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD MAKE A CLEAR STATEMENT ON GORBACHEV'S ZERO-ZERO-PROPOSAL, THE RESULT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING YESTERDAY MUST APPEAR DISAPPOINTING. AND YET, THE RESOLUTION THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES, WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE PRODUCT OF THE TALKS. THE OUTCOME IS POSITIVE BECAUSE KOHL THUS AVOIDED COMPROMISING THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE DEFENSE

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MINISTER WHOSE DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT BEEN MERELY INVENTED BY THE MEDIA, AS THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TRIES TO MAKE US BELIEVE.

"THE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS ARE WELL-FOUNDED. FROM BONN'S POINT OF VIEW, GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS OF COURSE LOOK QUITE DIFFERENT THAN FROM WASHINGTON'S MORE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. WOERNER WOULD HAVE VIOLATED HIS DUTIES, IF HE HAD NOT POINTED OUT THE PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO OUR SITUATION..."

PRO-SPD VOLKSBLATT BERLIN IN A PAGE-TWO COMMENTARY

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SAYS: "ARE WE MISSING A HISTORIC DISARMAMENT CHANCE ONLY BECAUSE THERE IS A LACK OF COURAGE?

"ONLY THE BONN ADMINISTRATION CANNOT MAKE UP ITS MIND. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER SEEMS TO BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE THE ZERO-ZERO OPTION, BUT HE AVOIDS MAKING A CLEAR-CUT STATEMENT. DEFENSE MINISTER WOERNER WANTS A ZERO-SOLUTION ONLY FOR LONG-RANGE INF'S, BECAUSE OTHERWISE HIS DOCTRINE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE WOULD BE ABANDONED. THE HARDLINERS IN THE CDU/CSU SEE SOVIET TROOPS MARCHING INTO BERLIN IF THE ZERO-ZERO OPTION IS ACCEPTED -- THE USSR WOULD HAVE SUPERIORITY IN THE AREA OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

"GIVEN THIS SITUATION, IT IS CLEAR WHY KOHL WAS UNABLE TO MAKE A CLEAR-CUT STATEMENT. A BUST-UP AMONG COALITION PARTNERS MUST BE AVOIDED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN AT THE PRICE OF MISSING THE UNIQUE CHANCE OF REACHING DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS.

"KENNETH ADELMAN, CHIEF OF THE U.S. DISARMAMENT

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AGENCY, IS WORRIED AND SAYS: IF THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL IN EUROPE, REARMAMENT WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE FRG. THE MASTERS IN BONN ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE."

TRADE CONFERENCES

THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL IN A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY SAYS: "INSTEAD OF USING EXISTING POSSIBILITIES, FOR INSTANCE THOSE OFFERED BY GATT, AND INSTEAD OF ENDORSING THE CURRENT GATT NEGOTIATIONS, INCREASINGLY MORE NEGOTIATING FORUMS ARE BEING CREATED. FEWER WOULD BE BETTER...NOT THE KILOMETERS SPENT IN AIRLINERS AND THE NUMBER OF CONFERENCES SHOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR ASSESSING THE SUCCESS OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLITICS AND ECONOMICS, BUT RATHER CONCRETE RESULTS -- AND THEY ARE SCARCE.

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"THE NEGOTIATING CIRCLES ARE FINALLY BECOMING SMALLER AND MORE EXCLUSIVE. THE POWERFUL, CALLED THE 'BIG FIVE' AND THE 'BIG SEVEN,' FINALLY REMAIN AMONG THEMSELVES AND THUS STRENGTHEN THE VIEW THAT THE ECONOMIC SUPER POWERS HAVE THE SAY." KORNBLUM

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